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Security Council

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Letter dated 27 September 2011 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 15 September 2011 (S/2011/577), concerning the temporary inter-mission transfer between the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. In your letter you sought the advance approval of the Council for the arrangements described therein. I further have the honour to confirm that the Security Council grants such approval.

Your letter specifically contains the following recommendations: that the three armed attack helicopters concurrently redeployed from UNMIL to UNOCI must return to Liberia by 30 September 2011 and should be focused on the border with Côte d'Ivoire, except during the elections period; that beyond the Liberian elections, though still based in Liberia, the armed helicopters should continue to be used in the border areas in both Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, and also in western Côte d'Ivoire; that the Security Council authorize the temporary transfer from UNOCI to UNMIL of one infantry company comprising 150 personnel, as well as three formed police unit platoons with supporting elements, totalling 100 personnel, from 1 October to 30 November 2011; and that the Council authorize UNOCI to place an infantry company comprising 150 personnel, two special forces platoons totalling 80 personnel, and two military utility helicopters on standby in Côte d'Ivoire during the period from 1 October to 30 November 2011, which would be deployed to Liberia only if the situation requires and after the Special Representative for Liberia advises that the evolving situation requires such further reinforcement, upon which the Secretary-General will notify the Council.

The Security Council recalls that, in its resolution 1609 (2005), it authorized the temporary redeployment of military and civilian police personnel between UNMIL and UNOCI, subject to certain conditions including the agreement of the troop-contributing countries and, where relevant, the Governments concerned. In its resolution 2008 (2011), the Council reaffirmed that arrangement, called on troop-contributing countries to support the efforts of the Secretary-General in this regard, and reaffirmed the need for UNMIL and UNOCI to regularly coordinate their strategies and operations to contribute to subregional security. The Council notes that, in your letter, you indicated that you are in the process of seeking the consent of the troop- and police-contributing countries concerned for the temporary redeployment you have recommended. Consistent with resolution 2008 (2011), in order to provide support for the upcoming presidential and legislative elections in

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Liberia and mindful of the need to support the ability of UNOCI to carry out its mandate, notably with regard to the expected legislative elections in Côte d'Ivoire and the cross-border security challenges for both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, the Council concurs with the temporary inter-mission transfer described above, provided that you receive the consent indicated above.

Finally, the Security Council notes your recommendation that options be kept open for the possible use of helicopters from UNMIL to address security challenges in Côte d'Ivoire, including Abidjan, and for the possible temporary relocation of the helicopters to UNOCI during the anticipated Ivorian legislative elections. The Council stands ready to respond appropriately to any such relocation request.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
President of the Security Council